three years, *i.e.,* from 2005-06 to 2007-08 (till November, 2007), in the various states are given below:—

| Name of the State | CNG station opened during the last three years |
|---|---|
| Delhi | 18 |
| Maharashtra | 22 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 09 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 12 |
| Tripura | 01 |
| Gujarat | 53 |
| TOTAL | 115 |

(b) to (d) Presently no CNG station has been opened up in Rajsthan. Until recently, no trunk pipeline for natural gas was available in vicinity of the major cities of Rajasthan.

(e) GAIL has commissioned Vijaipur-Kota pipeline in January, 2007. GAIL has been issued authorization for Chhainsa-Gjirgaon-Jajjhar-Hissar pipeline, passing close to Alwar in Rajasthan. Further, GAIL has applied to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board for authorization for City Gas Distribution projects in Kota and other cities of Rajasthan.

**Shortage of LPG**

3826. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware of LPG shortage in various parts of the country during the last six months;

if so, the reasons therefor, by indicating by when the problem of LPG shortage will put to an end;

the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for fulfilment of LPG demand in the country;

whether there is any proposal to hike LPG prices on demand of second cylinder within a month time limit; and

if 50, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 9394 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs) of domestic LPG in the country during the year April, 2007—February, 2008 as against 8863 TMTs during the corresponding period of 2006-07.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to a combination of factors *viz.,* reduction in supply of bulk LPG compared to the target by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January-February, 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic booking by the customers, strikes by contract labour, agitational activities, delays in berthing of vesels at Haldia Port due to reduced draft, bandhs etc.

Government had advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the country by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. Increased bottling is also done during the working days for early clearance of backlog.

At present, OMCs have not reported any backlog in supply of LPG in the country. OMCs are monitoring the situation on a day to day basis and corrective action is being taken whenever required.

No, Sir.

Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**Gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields**

3827. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether the Power Ministry has demanded for nearly half the quantity of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields for producing more power to meet countrywide power shortage;

if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

what are the barriers for accepting power Ministry's legitimate demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The demand for natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, priority is being given to supply of natural gas to power plants, including from PMT fields. The power plants located along Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur/ex-Hazira (HVJ/ex-Hazira) are being supplied a total quantity of 2.25 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) natural gas from PMT fields at Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price. Further, 1.5 mmscmd is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL). 0.90 mmscmd would be supplied to Torrent Power Limited. So total supply to power sector from PMT fields would be 4.65 mmscmd.

**LPG connections for women under BPL**

3828. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU RAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether Government has formulated any policy regarding domestic LPG connections to the women under below poverty line in the country with a view to reduce dependence on forest for firewood and improve their helath status;

if so, the details thereof;

if not, the reasons therefor; and

the reaction of Government thereto?